

CLAIMS

1. A method of telemicroscopy comprising the steps of:
5 preparing a specimen on a microscopy slide; placing the
slide upon the stage of a microscope equipped with digital
imaging apparatus and motorised stage; imaging the specimen
to obtain a composite high resolution image of the whole
specimen; digitally obtaining a relatively low resolution
copy of that image; and storing the images in a datastore;
10 wherein the method further comprises the steps of allowing
access to the datastore from a terminal; transferring the
low resolution image to the terminal and displaying the
image upon a monitor; selecting by means of the remote
terminal, as desired, an area of the low resolution image
15 and transferring corresponding high resolution image data
for that area from the datastore to the terminal.

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2. ~~The~~ A method according to claim 1, wherein the terminal is
a remote terminal.

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3. ~~The~~ A method according to claim 1 or claim 2, further
comprising the step of recording the areas of the low
resolution image that are selected, for review of
performance of a person performing the method.

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4. ~~The~~ A method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein a
continuous sequence of successive images of the specimen is
obtained by advancing the field of view of the objective
lens of the microscope stepwise across the specimen and
30 acquiring an image of each field of view.

5. A telemicroscopy apparatus comprising a microscope
provided with a digital imaging apparatus and a motorised
stage which can be controlled to obtain a digital image or
35 plurality of such images, at a desired high resolution, of
an entire specimen placed upon the stage; image processing
means to obtain a low resolution copy of the image of the

specimen; storage means to store the images obtained; and means for transferring, in use, image data to a terminal in response to requests therefrom.

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5A 6. ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the digital imaging apparatus is a digital camera.

AA 7. ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 5 ~~or claim 6~~, comprising means for moving the objective lens of the 10 microscope in order to provide automatic focussing.

AA 8. ~~The~~ An apparatus according to claim 5, ~~6 or 7~~ comprising means for recording what image data is requested for review of the performance of a user.

15 A 9. ~~An~~ *The* apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the recording means is a data storage disk, such as a floppy disk.
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